

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the captioned application. Claims 1-14 and 17-25 are withdrawn. Claims 15, 16 and 26-28 are under examination; of these, claims 16 and 26-28 stand rejected, while claim 15 is objected to. In response, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-14 and 16-20 and amended claims 15 and 21-28. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of pending claims. Reconsideration is also respectfully request to rejoin method claims 21-25, as they now depend upon claim 15.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's argument on restriction and herein confirm that claims 15, 16 and 26-28 are under examination.

The Examiner states that the list of references cited in the specification has not been properly submitted in an IDS, and therefore have not been considered. In response, Applicants submit concurrently herewith an IDS, under 37 C.F.R. §1.98, listing the references and respectfully request that the Examiner consider these references. Applicants have also amended the specification, providing updated information including patent numbers for several of the referenced patent applications.

The disclosure has been objected to for failing to comply with the requirement of 37 C.F.R. §1.821 through §1.825. Specifically, the Examiner states that Page 4, lines 18

and 19 appears to list sequences without an associated SEQ ID NO:. In response, Applicants respectfully submit that this informality has been corrected in a response filed on October 10, 2006, in response to an Office Communication of October 3, 2006. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the Objection to the Specification should be withdrawn.

The claims have been objected to. Specifically, claims 15 and 16 have been objected to for the recitation of “SEQ ID No: 3”. In response, Applicants have amended claim 15 to read “SEQ ID NO: 3”. Claim 16 has been cancelled. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim objections should now be withdrawn.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 16 and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 and §102(e), respectfully. In response, Applicants have cancelled claim 16 and amended claims 26-28 to depend on claim 15. Applicants respectfully submit that as such, the rejections are now moot.

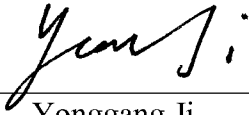
Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of the claims.

Appl. No. 10/049,358
Amendment dated April 12, 2007
Reply to Office action of January 12, 2007

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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